

# The Practice of Prayer, Pt. 5

## Multiple Scripture References

**Point 1:** We must pray to *release* God's will

**Point 2:** We must pray *according* to God's will and not our own

**Point 3:** We must pray *believing* that God will answer

## Ten Hindrances to Prayer

1. Unrighteousness
2. Ignoring the poor
3. Unhealthy marital relationship
4. Sin - Unconfessed
5. Disobedience
6. Unbelief
7. Disregard for Scripture
8. Idolatry
9. Unforgiveness
10. Selfishness

## Ten Keys to Prayer

### 1. Righteousness

**1 John 5:13** I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life. **14** And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us.

**Psalms 34:15** The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous and his ears toward their cry. **17** When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears and delivers them out of all their troubles.

**1 Peter 3:12** For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.

A prideful Christian is an oxymoron – two words with opposite meanings used in the same phrase – pretty ugly, a little big, jumbo shrimp, rap music.

### 2. Humility

**Dan. 10:12** Then he said to me, "Fear not, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand and humbled yourself before your God, your words have been heard, and I have come because of your words."

**Isaiah 66:2** ...this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word.

**Luke 18:14** Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.

**1 Peter 5:6** Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, 7 casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

**James 4:10** Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

In humility, we turn our eyes away from our own desires and look in the same direction that God is looking.

### 3. Repentance

**Acts 8:20** But Peter replied, "May your money be destroyed with you for thinking God's gift can be bought! **21** You can have no part in this, for your heart is not right with God. **22** Repent of your wickedness and pray to the Lord. Perhaps he will forgive your evil thoughts. **23** for I can see that you are full of bitter jealousy and are held captive by sin."

Repentance is more than just confession. Confession is admitting that we have sinned.

Repentance is turning away from sin and walking in the ways of righteousness.

### 4. Fear of God

**Psalms 34:9** Oh, fear the LORD, you his saints, for those who fear him have no lack!

**Psalms 145:19** He fulfills the desire of those who fear him; he also hears their cry and saves them.

To fear God means that we are to demonstrate before Him "reverence, honor, respect."

## 5. Obedience

**1 John 3:22** Whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him.

**John 14:21** Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him... **23** If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him."

## 6. Delight in the Lord

**Psalms 37:4** Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart. **5** Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act.

We should ask this question about every prayer we offer:

If God were to grant my request, would the results further the kingdom of God? Would God get glory from the results?

## 7. Abide in Christ

**John 15:7** If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

Abiding in Christ means that we recognize that we have no independent life – no free will – apart from Christ.

**Phil. 2:13** God is working in you, giving you both the desire (the will) and the power (the ability) to do what pleases him.

**Psalms 91:1** He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty... **14** Because he holds fast to me in love, I will deliver him; I will protect him, because he knows my name. When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him.

## 8. Faith

**Heb. 10:19** Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, **20** by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, **21** and since we have a great priest over the house of God, **22** let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

**Heb. 11:6** But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

## 9. In Jesus' name

**John 14:13** Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. **14** If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.

Praying in Jesus' name is not about proper prayer, but about proper authority. We have been authorized to pray on the authority of Jesus.

**John 15:16** You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.

## 10. Worship

**Matt. 6:9** Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. **10** Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

Picture God on His throne. Standing beside Him is the Son. Wafting up through the portals of heaven come the prayers of the saints filling the throne room with the fragrant aroma of incense pleasing in the nostrils of God.

What kind of prayers fit that description?

- Prayers that are offered by those made righteous by the grace of God through the blood of Christ
- Prayers of the humble
- Of those who have truly repented
- Of those who fear God
- Who are obedient to His commands
- Who delight in the Lord
- Who abide in Christ
- Who ask in faith
- And in the name of Jesus Christ
- Who pray with the primary purpose of worship